

## RAISING THE DORNIER

Sunday 2nd June 2013

**Today the Royal Air Force Museum and Sea Tech will attempt to raise the last surviving Dornier Do-17 bomber from the Goodwin Sands after three weeks of intensive effort to prepare the aircraft for recovery and long-term restoration.**

Despite the exceptionally poor weather over the past month, which has required the salvage team to return to port on at least four occasions, everything is now set for the aircraft to be successfully lifted from the seabed where it has lain for over seventy years.

Because of the weather difficulties and strict deadline to save the aircraft, the Museum has instructed the dive company SeaTech to alter their methodology of assembling a lifting frame around aircraft to ensure the operation is complete within the given boundaries.

The new method which is more delicate in nature, involves attaching lifting equipment to specific points on the aircraft that the Museum have identified as the strongest parts of the airframe. An attempt will still be made to raise it complete, and in a single lift.

Once the aircraft has been laid on onto the support barge it will be transported directly to Ramsgate Harbour where it will be dismantled for travel to the Museum's Conservation Centre at Cosford.

The lift of the aircraft is now in progress. **Peter Dye Director General, Royal Air Force Museum** *"We have adapted the lifting frame design to minimise the loads on the airframe during the lift while allowing the recovery to occur within the limited time remaining. The RAF Museum has worked extremely closely with SeaTech throughout this process and both organisations remain determined to complete this challenging task and see the Dornier safely recovered as planned and delivered to the Museum's Conservation Centre for preservation and public exhibition."*

### **Dornier Project – A recap**

The Royal Air Force Museum is undertaking an exciting, challenging and historically fascinating project to remove a German bomber, the last remaining Dornier 17, from the sea-bed off Kent right now. The project was made possible with funding by The National Heritage Memorial Fund.

The complex project has not been entered into lightly and has used a number of ground-breaking techniques for underwater recovery and conservation. It has been

undertaken with an impressive group of experts ranging from chemists and physicists from Imperial College London who advised on the conservation and structural integrity of the aircraft, to SeaTech who are managing the actual lift.

The project has stimulated a huge amount of interest across the world and events are being followed closely by millions around the world.

This is not the first time the Museum salvaged an aircraft wreck, as a visit shows, other examples have been found and reassembled before. Should the weather provide additional challenges to the actual integrity of the aircraft, the Museum is committed to salvaging the parts it can in order to treat, examine and exhibit this incredible part of aviation history.

#### Endsõ

- RAF Museum contact for further information, images and interviews on the Dornier project: 020 8358 4849 / [dornier@rafmuseum.org](mailto:dornier@rafmuseum.org)
- For full aircraft history, archive images and pictures from the project, please access the Online Press Pack: [www.rafmuseum.org/dorniermedia](http://www.rafmuseum.org/dorniermedia)
- [www.rafmuseum.org](http://www.rafmuseum.org)

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